4. Other measures initiated by the Government to improve the Nutritional States of the people are:—

— Improving agricultural and horticulture produce

— Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes

— Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution system and Public Distribution system.

— Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.

5. Programmes for prevention of Specific Micronutrient Deficiency disorders other than iron deficiency:—

(i) Prophylaxis Programme to prevent Nutritional Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency. This is also under the RCH programme.

(ii) National Iodine Deficiency disease Control Programme (NIDDCP)

(iii) Pilot Programme for control of Micronutrient Deficiencies

Industry status to medical services

†2053. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMANALI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval to foreign capital investment for developing health and medical field in the country as a lucrative industry, instead of letting it remain a social service sector is being considered;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to give industry status to this sector; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% on the automatic route is allowed in the Health Sector. As present there is no proposal to give industry status to the health sector in the country.

Community Health Insurance Scheme

2054. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a request from the Andhra Pradesh Government for funding of State Government's Community Health Insurance Scheme which is proposed to be launched on pilot basis in three most backward districts of the State, *Viz.* Anantpur, Mahboobnagar and Srikakulam with public-private partnership under the National Rural Health Mission Programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.